(b) what is he present number of LPG conncections existing in the city ; and

(c) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) 87,000 (approx.)

(b) 2,13,800 (approx.)

(c) Efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections to as many applicantss as early as possible subject to availability of LPG.

Oil exploration off Pondicherry coast

2195. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil exploration activity off the Pondicherry-Cuddalore coast is likely to be called off shortly ;

(b) since when the drilling in the area has been going on and wha; are the results so far ; and

(c) what are the reasons for calling off the activities ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Explora'ory drilling in this area started with the drilling of first well in July '78, which proved dry. In the last two years 4 wells have been drilled without establishing any hydro-carbon reserves.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring or ONGC and Oil

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the structure of ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) to improve its functioning ;

(b) if so, the details (hereof ;

(c) whether Government also propose to promote the private sector participation in these two PSUs ;

(d) if so, the derails thereof ; and

(e) by when the structure of these two PSUs is likely to be changed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) and (e) Government have constituted a Committee to examine all organisational aspects of ONGC and recommend any strueural change The Committee is expected to submit i;s report by 31-8-1992. There is no proposal to restructure Oil India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting list for LPG in Madhya Pradesh

2197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new LPG connections have no; been released to the waiting consumers in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last several years ;

(b) if so, what are the derails thereof and the cut off dates for release of LPG connections in 45